



**WORLD
MISSION**
Policy

2018

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1 Introduction

Our vision at Above Bar Church places mission at the heart of what we do. God promised to bless Abraham and his descendants, and through them to bless all the nations (Genesis 12:1–3). The biblical mandate for mission is both holistic and integrated. It is holistic because it concerns the whole of creation (e.g. Genesis 1:28) – both spiritual and physical. It is integrated because it is the calling of all God’s people (e.g. Genesis 39:1–6; 41:1–57). We recognise with gratitude and awe the privilege and responsibility of being sent into the world by the Lord Jesus Christ just as the Father sent Him (John 17:18; 20:21) in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim God’s coming kingdom (Matthew 4:17).

This is often called the ‘mission of God’ or *missio Dei* (his purpose for creation). It is this which defines our mission as his people and shapes our mission statement:

- We, the people of Above Bar Church and thus part of the worldwide church, are committed to playing our part in taking the whole gospel to the whole community in which God has placed us and to all other communities to which God calls us.

We aim to work this out on the basis of our specific core values:

- **Bible-centred:** We see that God has always planned to bless all nations, and we rejoice to be part of what he is doing.
- **Authentic community:** We recognise that we are part of the worldwide church and share in its suffering and its calling to mission.
- **God-dependent:** We know that by praying for mission, we take part in the work of mission.
- **Mission-focused:** We help every member of the church to find their role in responding to Christ’s call for us to go into the world and work with him in sharing the good news and building His kingdom.

Jesus commands his church to

- love the Lord, our neighbours, and our enemies in word and deed (Matthew 22:37–40; Matthew 5:43–45)
- make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18–20; Romans 1:5)
- share the good news of reconciliation with God (Romans 5:9–10) and the certain hope of the renewal of the whole of creation (Romans 8:19–21)

God calls each of us to be part of his mission, and his purposes are to shape our lives. In that sense, we are all mission partners. In Above Bar Church, though, we reserve that term for church members whose role in God's wider purposes takes them beyond our local mission in Southampton. These are our 'Sent Mission Partners' (SMPs) and 'Exploratory Mission Partners' (EMPs) (see Section 5: 'Selection of Mission Personnel', p. 9). We can best support our mission partners when we recognise that their work is part of our mission as a whole church, as is the work of each of us.

We prioritise some specific streams of our global mission activity (see Appendix 1: 'Priorities', p. 17). Two guiding principles lie behind our mission activity and this world mission policy:

1.1 Integral mission is important

God's mission moves forward through both words and action. We therefore aim to engage overseas in ways which are holistic and strategic (not doing what local nationals could do). Our heart is for all our mission involvement to be integral and holistic, addressing spiritual and material needs by engaging in both evangelism and service to the community in whatever sphere God directs.

1.2 Humility is vital

Since mission practices change and should be from all nations to all nations (rather than 'from the west to the rest'), we need new global partnerships as we take our place in humility alongside others in God's mission, giving blessing to and receiving blessing from the global church.

2 Our Commitment to Mission

Above Bar Church is committed to:

- encouraging all church members to view all they do as part of their spiritual calling and opportunity for mission
- teaching that mission is a central part of God's will and work, and that mission itself is integral
- promoting mission locally, nationally, and across the world
- providing opportunities for members to become directly involved in world mission
- helping support members in approved mission work in the UK or overseas, members in training for such work, and members on approved short-term assignments
- identifying church members whom God may be calling to be involved full-time or part-time in approved mission work
- providing pastoral care and other support to our mission personnel, in partnership with mission agencies and local churches and Christians as far as is possible

The final responsibility for mission and its development within Above Bar Church lies with the church's leadership team, which includes all the elders and trustees, and a few others. They delegate some of their functions to working groups or committees made up of church members. Details of current structures can be found in Appendix 2: 'Structures', p. 18).

2.1 Prayer

The church is committed to praying for its sent mission partners. Corporate prayer for local and global mission should happen during Sunday services and at other times when members of the congregation meet to pray, such as in prayer meetings and home groups. We also encourage each member of the congregation to pray consistently for at least one of our mission partners.

2.2 Mission Education

Teaching about mission, both locally and across the world, should be an integral part of the church's programme. It should be a regular feature in the Sunday teaching ministry, as well as in mid-week activities and on special mission-focused occasions. The programme should enable mission partners to contribute to the life of the church when they are available. This enables direct feedback from the mission partners themselves as well as encouraging support. The church's mission education should nurture interest in mission and challenge members to consider mission opportunities.

3 Mission Partnerships

In the light of the church's commitment to integral mission, we encourage the development of partnerships with churches and Christians overseas in which we work together to bring God's blessing to both their community and our own. This may involve identifying specific projects to contribute to, whether financially or otherwise. When appropriate, we will develop such partnerships through our mission partners (in collaboration with those pastorally responsible for them on the field and their mission agencies). These partnerships may include agencies or other churches, or both, in the UK. Section 6 ('Criteria for Integral Mission Projects', p. 26), sets out criteria for deciding whether such projects can proceed with Above Bar Church support. The leadership team should normally bring recommendations for support to the church for approval. If the proposal involves financial support, it would normally form part of the world mission component of the annual budget (see Section 7: 'Finance', p. 12).

Supporting structures and accountability arrangements for these projects are outlined in Appendix 2: 'Structures' (p. 18) and Appendix 6: 'Criteria for Integral Mission Projects' (p. 26). Short-term mission trips may develop from existing partnerships or lead to the establishment of new partnerships. Important perspectives on such trips are given in Appendix 7: 'Short-term mission trips' (p. 28).

4 Principles of Mission Service

We appreciate that individuals within the church may feel a sense of calling to being sent out on short-term or long-term mission. It is important, though, that the church should recognise such callings before someone embarks on mission service. For the individual, there should be a deep sense of personal responsibility to God to fulfil the task, but one tempered with humility. The person may be willing to go, but the church should take part in deciding if that individual is suitable. The church must consider its current mission priorities, the needs and the opportunities that exist (in consultation with mission agencies and people in the field), and be asking God whom he would have us send. We should expect that God will call us to set apart those he is already using in the local church here. We should also nurture interest in mission and proactively challenge members to consider mission opportunities.

The church leadership team may decide to promote certain types of ministry or parts of the world and encourage future development in those areas.

5 Selection of Mission Personnel

There are two categories of sent mission partner.

5.1 Sent Mission Partners

It is the church's duty, through its leaders, to identify those members whom God is calling to specific mission work. Before anyone can be recommended to the church as a sent mission partner (SMP), it would be normal for them to:

- have been an active church member for at least three years
- display consistent godliness and Christian character along with appropriate gifting for the role
- be in full agreement with Above Bar Church's basis of faith, and its vision and values

- be associated with an agency committed to an evangelical basis of faith and (normally) a member of Global Connections
- have an agreed focus of ministry for a specified period of time
- have a clear sense of calling

There should be a partnership agreement (usually through a Memorandum of Understanding) with the agency and also, where possible, with a like-minded local church or denomination in the area where the individual will be working.

Church members who believe God may be calling them to mission service are invited to meet with the leadership team or those to whom it delegates such tasks (see Appendix 2: 'Structures', p. 18). In the early stages, these meetings may be informal and they may take place over a period of time. Discussions are also held with the relevant mission agencies or other bodies where appropriate. Positive approval from such agencies does not automatically constitute accreditation as a Sent Mission Partner. Acceptance as a Sent Mission Partner requires a 75% majority vote by the church membership on a recommendation from the leadership team.

There may be situations where individuals or a couple became involved in mission work prior to their membership of Above Bar Church and continue such involvement thereafter. Provided their situation fulfils the appropriate criteria from the above list, it would be normal practice for them to be recognised by the church as Sent Mission Partners, with a suitable partnership agreement put in place where possible.

5.2 Exploratory Mission Partners

Part of the process of discerning God's call for an individual or couple to become a Sent Mission Partner may involve a short-term assignment of some kind or specific training (typically theological training). In these circumstances, the leadership team may seek the support of the church to designate the individual or couple as Exploratory Mission Partners (EMPs) via a simple majority vote. In the case of the development of new and pioneering ministries, this exploratory period may last for

a considerable period. Recognition as an Exploratory Mission Partner does not guarantee later recommendation as a Sent Mission Partner.

5.3 Other Mission Opportunities

Members of the church may also serve overseas in other capacities with the prayerful support of the church.

5.3.1 Short term workers

Every year some members or worshippers at Above Bar Church go on short-term mission assignments. These may be either abroad or in the UK and would ideally involve a team and be linked to a current Sent Mission Partner. Those considering such trips are encouraged to engage with the appropriate mission group(s) (see Appendix 2: 'Structures', p. 18) for advice and guidance as early as possible, enlisting also the church's prayerful and (where appropriate) financial support. Short-term opportunities are communicated to the church more widely as they arise, seeking participants as appropriate.

5.3.2 Members Abroad

From time to time, individual members of Above Bar Church who are not mission partners and are not linked to mission agencies may move abroad for a period of time, for work or personal reasons. It is not usually appropriate for them to be recommended as mission partners, though members going in an intentional tent-making capacity may be recommended. While they remain members of Above Bar Church such individuals can expect to receive continuing support in prayer and other ways, usually through their home group or missional community, just as these are provided for all members.

6 Personnel Support

The church recognises its duty to continue to give pastoral advice and care to its serving mission partners, in consultation with the mission agencies and those pastorally responsible for them on the field where appropriate. Our aim is to follow Scripture's encouragement to send our partners 'in a manner worthy of God' (3 John 6). Appropriate structures are provided to enable a regular flow of information between all parties and to bring particular needs of the mission partners to attention of the leadership team (see Appendix 2: 'Structures', p. 18).

Sent Mission Partners and their agencies are expected to keep in regular contact with the church and to provide regular information about their ministry. They are expected to involve the Mission Personnel Support Group (which consults with the leadership team) in major decisions regarding a change of ministry. Under exceptional circumstances, this may have to be reaffirmed by a church members' vote, as in Section 5 ('Selection of Mission Personnel', p. 9). A change in role or circumstances may result in financial support ceasing.

The Mission Personnel Support Group, Sent Mission Partners, and their agencies agree a Memorandum of Understanding which establishes a clear understanding of, and commitment to, the roles and responsibilities of each partner involved. There must be regular review for all Sent Mission Partners. This is normally at least two-yearly but may need to coincide with a period of home leave where applicable. This provides an opportunity for both the Sent Mission Partners and the leadership team (or those to whom it delegates such responsibilities) to re-evaluate their commitment to the project. This enables ongoing accountability as well as updating the church of all the needs of the Sent Mission Partners.

7 Finance

The church recognises its responsibility to provide financial support for world mission, whilst also recognising that the exact mechanisms for this are not entirely clear in Scripture. We

currently make a contribution towards the ministry and living expenses of many, though not all, of our mission partners, but a substantial part of their support comes from other sources. Our aim is to ensure that all our Sent Mission Partners are adequately and fairly supported, with appropriate allocation of funds based on physical and situational needs.

Sent Mission Partners are not automatically guaranteed an allocation of Above Bar Church funds; each case is considered by the leadership team (or those to whom it delegates such responsibilities) and a statement about whether or not an allocation is appropriate should be made to the church members' meeting when recommending them as a Sent Mission Partner. If it is not initially appropriate, but at a later date becomes so because of a change in circumstances, the leadership may return to the church to seek approval for support. The share system for allocation of funds is outlined in Appendix 4: 'The Share System' (p. 23).

When Sent Mission Partners reach normal pensionable age, considerations regarding continuing support are made under the criteria detailed in Appendix 5: 'Retirement and Resignation of Sent Mission Partners' (p. 25).

The world mission budget is approved annually by the leadership team, forming a significant part of church expenditure. This is to fund the share allocation and provide limited additional support for emergency or other special needs. A recommendation for these figures is submitted to the leadership team before each financial year as part of the church's budget-setting process. Administration of all funds rests with the church treasurer.

Our major responsibility as a church is to support Sent Mission Partners and their mission agencies, and giving is directed to that end. Exceptions may be made in the case of well-defined finance-intensive aid ministries or Christian nationals. Only approved Sent Mission Partners may receive regular financial support from the church, but grants may also be made to Exploratory Mission Partners.

Biblical teaching on giving should be an integral part of the church's teaching programme.

APPENDICES

1 Priorities

Currently (2018), Above Bar Church wishes to encourage the following particular mission streams:

1.1 Church planting and building in continental Europe

We believe we should play a more intentional part in reaching an increasingly secularised and polarised Europe. We will therefore encourage those whom the Lord is calling from Above Bar Church to plant and strengthen churches in continental Europe, working towards building closer links with those churches.

1.2 Evangelism among unreached people groups, particularly those outside Europe

We believe we should be heeding the 'silent global Macedonian call' of those who have never heard the gospel. Outside of Europe, we will focus on either attempting to reach the unreached or equipping others to do so – through ministries such as evangelism, church planting and Bible translation. We would particularly warm to sending those willing to serve in Muslim majority countries. We recognise the day may come when we encourage the formation of a team from the church to work mid- to long-term in an unreached area/group. We encourage those who work in unreached areas or groups to cooperate wherever possible with local churches and groups, where they exist.

1.3 Training and equipping for strategic overseas ministries

We believe that mission and ministry training, church-planting training, discipleship training, and training for various kinds of 'secular' professional work can play a strategically important role in mission. In this regard we would especially be open to those seeking to minister to the global south (as the new mission-sending countries), but also to those working in Europe

and in unreached parts of the world. We encourage our mission personnel and projects to honour and support the local church wherever they can.

2 Structures

There are five major areas which require ongoing, organised commitment by appropriate groups in order to facilitate the outworking of the World Mission Policy:

- i. keeping abreast of thinking regarding global mission and the corresponding developments in mission agencies, both in the west and elsewhere, and considering how these should be reflected in the church's own world mission activity
- ii. pastoral support of all existing church mission partners, in conjunction with their mission agencies and those pastorally responsible for them on the field
- iii. encouraging individuals into short-term or long-term global mission, generating appropriate support bases and ensuring any necessary training
- iv. communicating the work of church mission partners and other global mission to the wider church, and facilitating coordinated and specific prayer
- v. encouraging and overseeing the development of community integral mission projects

These tasks are undertaken by the following groups, under the direction of the minister with specific responsibility for the church's world mission involvement (hereafter 'the Minister'). He ensures that the outworking of the World Mission Policy by these groups, or alternatives he may wish to institute from time to time, is satisfactory and in line with the World Mission Policy.

2.1 World Mission Strategy Group

The World Mission Strategy Group (WMSG) covers task i above to ensure coherence and appropriate interaction between all the above groups, whilst maintaining global awareness and overseeing general policy. It is responsible for:

- maintaining awareness of the general thinking and development of the world-wide church in its world mission vision and practice (e.g. via ongoing relationships with mission agencies)
- considering whether and how that strategic thinking should be included in our own policies and practice
- maintaining awareness of the work of the Mission Personnel Support Group and Mission Projects Group, ensuring coherence and effectiveness
- developing ways of identifying those whom God is calling the church to set apart for mission service, whether short-term or long-term
- ensuring that the leadership team is kept informed of the work of all the groups, requesting agreement for specific actions or policy changes as appropriate
- developing cross-cultural mission engagement by:
 - enabling the church to develop a clear understanding of its role and approach in relation to such ministries
 - increasing awareness of and active engagement with these ministries within the wider church family
 - bringing the challenge of cross-cultural mission to the wider church family in a compelling and engaging fashion
 - using the opportunities for short-term mission to the maximum possible effect
 - liaising constructively with other teams in the church in order to help carry these aims forward.

(The first three of these require close co-operation with the church communications team.)

- enabling and overseeing a mission education programme for the church, which may be incorporated in Sunday services and regular mid-week meetings, but may also involve special events (this requires close cooperation with the church communications team)
- liaising with the communications team to ensure that mission-related information in church publications (including the church website, weekly email, and printed publications) is relevant, timely, and engaging
- ensuring that risks associated with world mission work are recorded in the church risk register and reviewed regularly
- reporting regularly to the church leadership team

The group meets as necessary, but at least quarterly. Membership includes

- the Minister as chair
- the Chairs of the Mission Personnel Support Group and Mission Projects Group
- the lay elder from MPSG
- a representative of the church's communications team (which should have at least one member with a remit to attend to mission matters in addition to the WMSG representative)
- others as required

2.2 Mission Personnel Support Group

The Mission Personnel Support Group (MPSG) covers tasks ii, iii, and (in part) iv above. It is responsible for:

- all mission personnel (both Sent Mission Partners and Exploratory Mission Partners) who exercise a ministry which is distinct from the local ministry of the church
- providing personal and pastoral support to all mission personnel and ensuring a sense of connection between them and the whole church family

- liaising with the church finance team in relation to the administration of the agreed mission share and the processing of specific requests for financial support of mission personnel
- liaising with the mission agencies which facilitate the ministries of Above Bar Church mission personnel, establishing (where necessary) and maintaining appropriate partnerships with those agencies, as well as with local churches or denominations on the field
- counselling and advising those considering mission service (whether long-term or, in partnership with the Mission Projects Group, short-term) to think through what this might involve and to work towards an agreed path for them
- operating the 'Buddy' scheme, providing liaison between MPSG and the mission partners through their Link Persons (see Appendix 3: 'Links and Buddies', p. 23)
- providing information from mission personnel (both Sent Mission Partners and Exploratory Mission Partners) and other relevant mission information to the church for prayer in services, prayer meetings, prayer networks, and other events

The group normally meets monthly. Membership should normally include

- the Chair (appointed by the Leadership Team)
- the Minister
- a lay elder
- at least five others, one of whom is also a member of the Mission Projects Group, and one who is designated as the contact person for the church communications team

2.3 Mission Projects Group

The Mission Projects Group (MPG) covers tasks v and (in part) iii above. It meets as necessary and is responsible for:

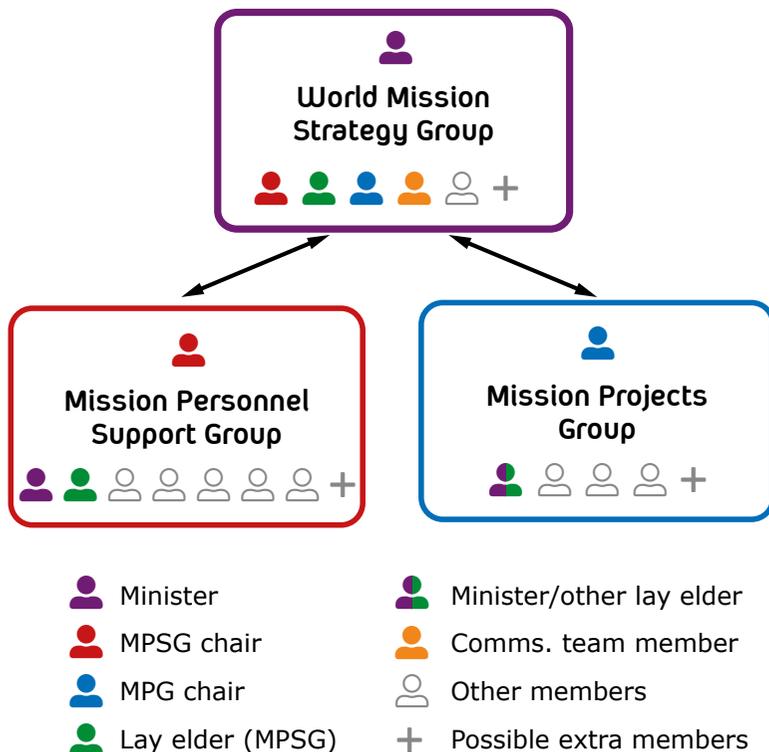
- encouraging and overseeing development of community integral mission projects with Sent Mission Partners and others;

- ensuring such projects follow the criteria laid down in Appendix 6: 'Criteria for Integral Mission Projects' (p. 26)
- in association with the MPSG, working with those church members considering short-term mission activity, identifying possible work and helping to establish appropriate teams

The group meets as necessary. Membership should normally include

- the Chair
- a lay elder
- a representative from the Mission Personnel Support Group
- at least two others with interests and expertise in appropriate areas of secular activity (for example, the business, educational or health sectors)

The overall structure of the work of and interactions between these groups is summarised diagrammatically below:



3 Links and Buddies

Each Sent Mission Partner (or SMP couple) has a Link person who has the specific role of representing them to the wider church and to the Mission Personnel Support Group (through the Buddies). A separate document outlines the essential features of the role, expanding on the words providing the acronym (L.I.N.K. for Liaison, Integration, Nurture, Knowledge). Links are expected to work out the detailed nature of their role with the Sent Mission Partner.

Each Sent Mission Partner (or SMP couple) is assigned a Buddy, who is a member of the Mission Personnel Support Group and represents them to the group. In particular, Buddies bring to the attention of the MPSG any pastoral, financial or other needs that may arise. Each Buddy works out with their assigned Sent Mission Partners (and the Link people) the specific responsibilities within this remit. Each member of the Mission Personnel Support Group is expected to act as Buddy to a number of Sent Mission Partners, so that all the latter are covered by the whole MPSG.

4 The Share System

Above Bar Church operates a 'share' system for support of its mission partners. The value of a single share is set annually as part of the church's budgeting process, with percentage changes usually in line with those made for the church staff. Partnership with most Sent Mission Partners is three-way, between the SMP, their mission agency, and the church. The overall aim is therefore to provide total support equal to around one third of the total annual budget requirement for all those Sent Mission Partners receiving shares.

Allocations to individual Sent Mission Partners and their families are as set out in the table.

Single SMP	1.00 share
Married SMP couple	1.65 share (normally) This can vary on a case-by-case basis depending on individual circumstances (including, but not limited to, couples operating essentially as two distinct SMPs, couples who do not need the full 1.65 share, or couples of whom only one is a member of Above Bar Church).
Each dependent child (up to three per family to the end of full-time education [first degree only])	0.4 share Where children take a gap year prior to entering higher education, during which they remain dependent on their parents, the mission partners may, at the discretion of the MPSG, continue to receive a children's allowance during this period.

Where only one member of a married couple is an Above Bar Church member they are normally treated as a single person, though they may also qualify for children's allowances.

In addition to the regular support of mission partners through the share system the church aims to provide limited additional support for emergency or other special needs. Allocation of funds from the special needs budget shall be at the prayerful discretion of the Chair of the Mission Personnel Support Group and at least one elder, with all members of the MPSG being informed in due course. Where possible, such allocations shall be prayerfully discussed in a MPSG meeting beforehand. Administration of all funds rests with the church treasurer.

5 Retirement and Resignation of Sent Mission Partners

This appendix addresses points relevant both to those Sent Mission Partners who receive financial support from Above Bar Church through the share system and to those who do not.

However the Sent Mission Partner is funded, it is assumed that part of their income will cover the usual National Insurance payments, ensuring that on reaching retirement age they will automatically receive the full state pension, wherever they have been domiciled during their time as a Sent Mission Partner. In addition, all Sent Mission Partners are encouraged to consider, with their mission agency, appropriate additional pension arrangements, whether via that agency's own contributory pension scheme or, if it has none, in some other way.

Retiring Sent Mission Partners, or those who resign their role for whatever reason, normally receive support and review from the Mission Personnel Support Group for an initial 1–2 year transition phase while they adjust to retirement and settle back into Above Bar Church and life in the UK (retirement re-entry). Unless retiring Sent Mission Partners continue their full-time mission activity (see below), they would not normally remain the responsibility of MPSG after this transition period. If they remain Above Bar Church members, they would receive the level of pastoral support and encouragement usually afforded to all Above Bar Church members.

Retiring or resigning Sent Mission Partners who return to Southampton to live would, if they remain Above Bar Church members, normally be expected to continue active lay involvement in Above Bar Church's mission for as long as they are able, just as is expected of all members.

5.1 Sent Mission Partners funded partly through the share system

When reaching state pensionable age it is normal for the share allocation to cease.

However, if the SMP proposes to continue full-time mission activity with the same mission agency, consideration will be given to whether or not the church should continue its financial support and, if so, at what level (not beyond that of the usual share system). This would be discussed on a case-by-case basis by Above Bar Church, the Sent Mission Partner, and the mission agency in the year prior to reaching state pensionable age. The outcome would depend partly on the degree to which other support is likely to continue and the timing of maturation of other pension arrangements if they exist.

5.2 Sent Mission Partners not funded through the share system

If, as above, mission activity with the mission agency is to continue, the necessity for, and possibility of, some share allocation will be considered during the regular review of the Sent Mission Partner in the year prior to reaching the state pensionable age.

6 Criteria for Integral Mission Projects

As outlined in Section 3: 'Mission Partnerships', p. 8, there may be occasions when one or more Sent Mission Partners identify a specific project which they think may be worth developing, but which does not lie within the remit of their usual work programme. After appropriate discussion with the Sent Mission Partners, their mission agencies, and their relevant local community and church leaders, the Mission Projects Group may wish to recommend such a project to the Above Bar Church leadership team. Any proposal should show that the project meets the following criteria, as well as suggesting the levels of additional finance and/or manpower that the project would need.

1. **Agreement on essential doctrine:** The lead partner church or other group of local Christians should ideally have a basis of faith which is consistent with that of Above Bar

Church. In the absence of this, the Sent Mission Partner and Mission Projects Group should be fully satisfied that the partner churches or organisations are in agreement with our basis of faith.

2. **Agreement on priorities:** All partners should have a clear shared understanding of what is important, what is priority, and what might be mutually valuable.
3. **Partnership agreement:** There should be a clear partnership agreement specifying the responsibilities of the church(es), or other group of local Christians, with which the project is to be implemented, the Sent Mission Partner, and Above Bar Church. The agreement should include safeguards against long-term dependency. It is crucial that the project-related aspirations of local groups involved in the project should be clearly specified and should not include unrealistic hopes for future long-term support.
4. **Business plan:** There should be a clear business plan, which includes a budget set against estimated costs and timescales. The plan should explain how, if at all, the project will be sustainable in the long term, and should not raise unrealistic hopes for future long-term support.
5. **Opportunities for two-way blessing:** The project should include not only ways for Above Bar Church to bless the church(es) and groups involved in the project, but also ways for us to receive blessing from them. This is consistent with our understanding of mission (see Section 1.2: 'Humility is vital', p. 6).
6. **Communication:** Appropriate communication channels should be established.

As noted in Section 3 ('Mission Partnerships', p. 8), such integral mission projects might occasionally be prompted by Above Bar Church members other than Sent Mission Partners. For them to be pursued with the approval of the Mission Projects Group and Above Bar Church leadership, similar criteria to those listed above would need to be addressed.

7 Short-term mission trips

Short-term trips are an effective way to enthuse people for mission.

7.1 Priorities for sending short-term mission teams

There are many opportunities for short-term teams, but we have finite resources of time, finances, and personnel. Our priorities – which complement those for integral mission projects in Appendix 6: ‘Criteria for Integral Mission Projects’ (p. 26) – are:

1. Joining a Sent Mission Partner.
2. Working with a mission organisation which is connected with a Sent Mission Partner.
3. Working with mission organisations which work in areas that are in line with our priorities for mission (see Appendix 1: ‘Priorities’, p. 17).
4. Working with organisations and in places where we have no Sent Mission Partner but have another significant connection (for example, through our Christmas appeal).

The Mission Projects Group may agree other projects on occasions.

7.2 Types of short-term mission trips

We focus on two main types of mission trips, with different levels of complexity, although both take a significant amount of time and effort for the Mission Projects Group to organise.

1. Joining an existing mission agency working in areas specific to the three priorities listed in Appendix 1: ‘Priorities’ (p. 17). The mission agency organises the programme, accommodation, and travel times (though doesn’t always book flights). We limit these to five per year.

2. Visiting a Sent Mission Partner. In communication with the SMP (and Mission Personnel Support Group where relevant), the programme, travel arrangements, and accommodation are organised internally. We limit these trips to three per year as they are so time consuming to organise.

If capacity and resources allow, other projects could include:

3. Establishing and maintaining church-to-church partnerships.
4. Supporting the work of a small number of indigenous workers (in line with our ABC Sharpened Vision document).
5. Establishing and maintaining a link with an integral mission-focused organisation.



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